



LAUNCHES

PECIR

MEHARRY–AFRICA PROGRAM TO ENHANCE COLLABORATIVE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH



PECIR Supports

Meharry–Africa collaboration in genomics & precision health
Driving innovation, discovery and impact

Sponsored by The Diaspora Human Genomics Institute’s Together for CHANGE (T4C) initiative

Key Dates:

- Dec 15, 2025 – Letter of Intent Due
- January 5, 2026 – Full Applications Open
- Feb 16, 2026 – Applications Close
- April 15, 2026 – Award Notifications

 [Sign up here](#)

Meharry–Africa Program to Enhance Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Research (Meharry-Africa-PECIR)

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The Office for Research and Innovation

The Office for Research and Innovation



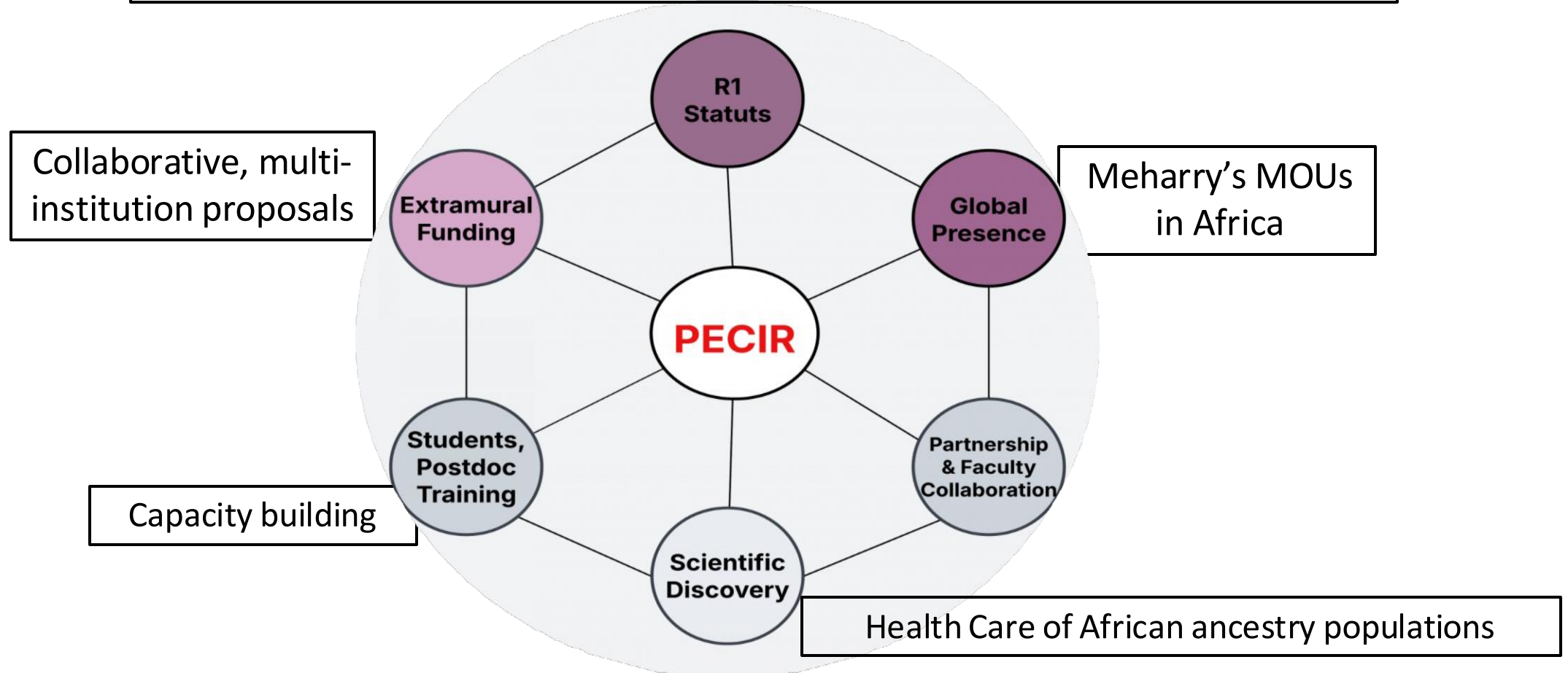
Program Overview

The Meharry–Africa Program to Enhance Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Research (PECIR) aims to foster sustainable research partnerships between Meharry Medical College and African institutions.

- Projects focused on **precision medicine and genomics** to improve health outcomes among populations of African ancestry.
- Leverages shared expertise and resources to drive scientific discovery, build workforce capacity, and advance sustainable health innovation across both continents.

Meharry-Africa Program to Enhance Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Research (PECIR)

Meharry & its partners elevated to a research-intensive (R1) institution



Program Goals

Strengthen global research capacity and Meharry's presence in Africa through high-impact, reciprocal partnerships advancing joint research and training across institutions.

Advance scientific discovery and innovation to address healthcare challenges affecting populations of African ancestry.

Extramural research funding
Enable faculty collaborative research that drives multi-institutional grant submissions and extramural funding success.

Position Meharry as a research-intensive (R1) institution by expanding global research partnerships, funding, publications, and talent pipelines.

Build workforce capacity by providing structured training opportunities for students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty to promote research excellence and independence

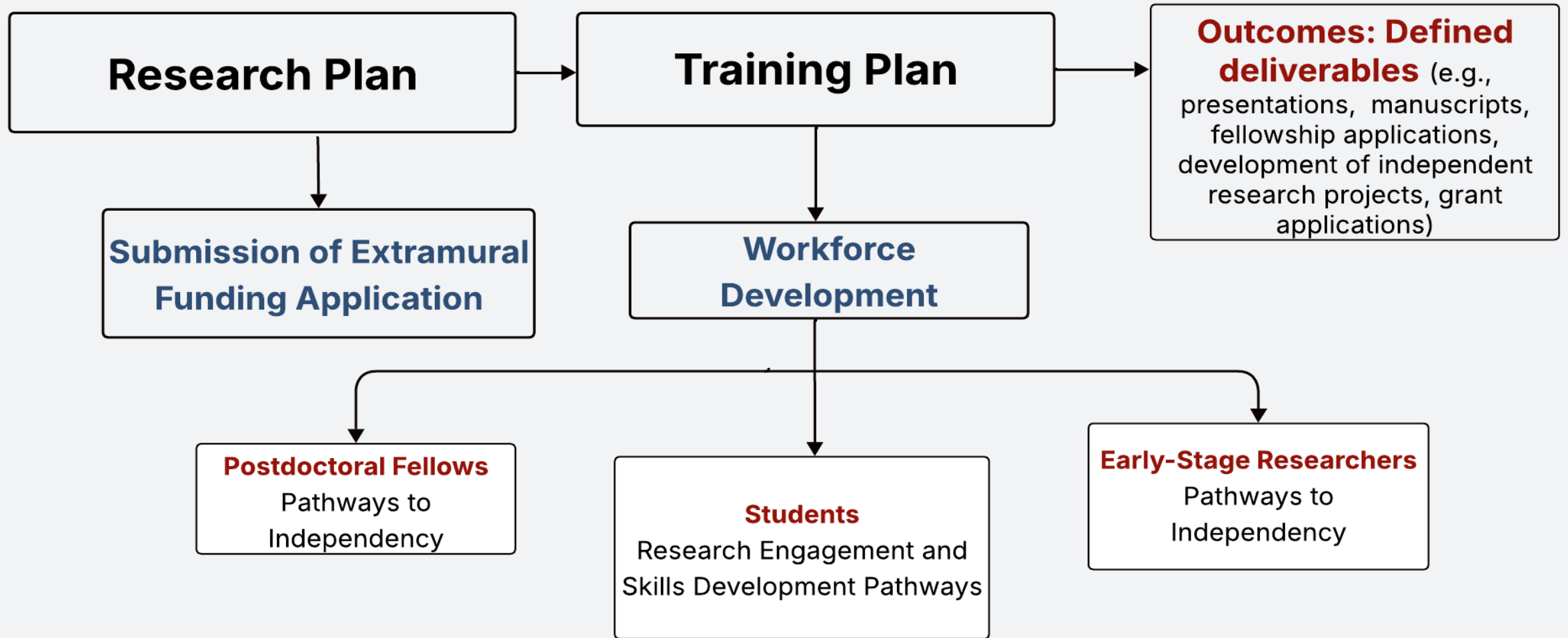
Collaboration Eligibility and Requirements

- **Mission Alignment:** Commitment to advancing health care and improving the human condition of African ancestry populations.
- **Shared Databases & Biobanks:** Collaborative resources to accelerate discovery and innovation.
- **Workforce Development:** Commitment to cultivating and strengthening the workforce of African ancestry populations.

Collaboration Eligibility and Requirements

- **Memorandum of Understanding between Meharry and partnering institution**
- **Faculty-led collaborations** without an existing institutional MOU
 - A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be signed between Meharry and the partnering institution.

Program Components



Budget

- Three (3) competitive awards will be granted, with each award providing up to \$125,000 in total funding.
 - Meharry (Up to \$75,000)
 - Partner Africa institution (Up to \$50,000)
- Award Duration: 2 years.

Application Process

- **Application Components**
- Cover Page: Principal Investigator(s) information and roles.
- Expectations and contributions from each PI including shared resources such as database and biobank.
- **Research Plan (5 pages):** Aims (1 page), significance, innovation, and approach.
- Planned Extramural Grant Applications: Targeted Agencies and anticipated submission timelines.
- **Training and Mentorship Plan** for Students, Postdocs, and emerging faculty researchers
- **Quarterly Milestones:** Clearly defined milestones and deliverables by quarter to align with progress monitoring and fund release requirements.
- NIH Biosketch (5 pages max per PI).
- Budget & Justification (Provide itemized details, including the training plan budget).
- Other Support: Pending/active funding.
- Project-specific Institutional Letters of Commitment
- References (not in page limit).

Review & Selection Criteria

- Scientific impact/significance originality/innovation/approach and mentoring feasibility.
- Potential for extramural funding.
- Training and Mentorship Plan for Students, Postdocs, and early-stage investigators.

Monitoring & Reporting

- Each quarterly progress report must include:
 - **Measurable research outcomes** achieved during the reporting period.
 - **A draft extramural grant** Specific aims page, targeted funding agency, and planned submission timeline for external funding.
 - **Number of trainees**, categorized by level (high school, undergraduate, graduate, PhD).
 - **Publications, presentations, and grant submissions** resulting from the collaboration.
 - **Postdoctoral fellows' outcomes:** Evidence of independent research development, manuscript authorship, and conference participation.
 - **Early- Stage Investigators outcomes:** Mentorship activities, collaborative publications, grant submissions as PI/co-PI, and measurable progress toward career independence

Monitoring & Reporting

- 6-Month, End-of-Year (Year 1), and 18-Month Reports approval is required for the release of the funding installment for the period following each respective reporting period.

Final Impact Report (End of Year 2)

- The final specific aims page and confirmation of planned or completed submission to the targeted funding agency.
- Documentation of all tangible research outcomes, including manuscripts, abstracts, presentations, preliminary data, and submitted fellowship or grant applications.
- A summary of training outcomes, including the number and type of trainees, skills gained, and scholarly products generated.
- A summary of postdoctoral and early-stage investigator outcomes including demonstrated progress toward research independence, leadership in publications or grant submissions.
- Evidence of capacity-building, and institutional impact, highlighting how the project has advanced collaborative research capacity at Meharry and partner institutions.

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Next Steps

- **Review Participant List:** An Excel sheet with all participating faculty and their research interests will be shared to help identify potential collaborators.
- **Identify Collaborators:** Reach out to faculty at partnering African institutions with shared or complementary research interests.
- **Establish a Collaborative Project:** Define research aims, training components, and expected outcomes aligned with genomics and precision health priorities.
- **Submit a Letter of Intent (LOI):** Indicate your collaboration team and project focus.
- **Develop and Submit Full Application:** Complete your proposal with measurable outcomes, mentorship plans, and budget details by the submission deadline.

Resources

- Sign up Link
- Collaborators list
- LOI Link
- Informational Webinar Link
- For questions, please contact Dr. Sarrah Widatalla at swidatalla@mmc.edu.



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Q&A

